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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1: (currently amended) A modified ~~pyrogenic toxin derived from a native disulfide loop containing pyrogenic toxin~~, comprising a modified staphylococcal pyrogenic toxin having wherein the modified toxin comprises a disulfide loop region containing no more than 10 amino acid residues wherein toxicity is reduced in comparison to the unmodified native toxin.

Claim 2: (canceled)

Claim 3: (currently amended) The modified toxin of claim 1 wherein the staphylococcal pyrogenic toxin is a type A, B, C, D, E, G, or H staphylococcal enterotoxin.

Claim 4: (canceled)

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Claim 5: (original) The modified toxin of claim 1 wherein the disulfide loop region contains no more than 6 amino acid residues.

Claim 6: (currently amended) The modified toxin of claim 1, wherein the ~~native disulfide loop containing~~ pyrogenic toxin is a type C staphylococcal enterotoxin.

Claim 7: (currently amended) The modified toxin of claim 6, wherein the modification comprises a deletion of at least 8 amino acid residues within the disulfide loop region.

Claim 8: (currently amended) The modified toxin of claim 7, wherein the modification comprises a deletion of amino acid residues 98-106 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

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Claim 9: (currently amended) The modified toxin of claim 6, 7 wherein the modification comprises deletion of at least 12 amino acid residues within the disulfide loop region.

Claim 10: (currently amended) The modified toxin of claim 9, 10 wherein the modification comprises deletion of amino acid residues 95-106 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 11: (currently amended) The modified toxin of claim 6, 7 wherein the type C staphylococcal enterotoxin is staphylococcal enterotoxin C1.

Claim 12: (currently amended) The modified toxin of claim 11, 12 comprising a cysteine residue at position 94 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 13: (currently amended): The modified toxin of claim 6, 7 wherein the staphylococcal enterotoxin is staphylococcal enterotoxin C1, staphylococcal enterotoxin C2, staphylococcal enterotoxin C3, staphylococcal enterotoxin C-MNCopeland, staphylococcal enterotoxin C-4446, staphylococcal enterotoxin C-bovine, staphylococcal enterotoxin C-canine or staphylococcal enterotoxin C-ovine.

Claim 14: (currently amended) The modified toxin of claim 1 comprising a cysteine residue at position 2 of the disulfide loop region, wherein the disulfide loop region is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16, and SEQ ID NO: 17.

Claim 15: (canceled)

Claim 16: (currently amended) The modified toxin of claim 1, 16 having an emetic response inducing activity decreased by at least ~~about~~ 100-fold in comparison to the native toxin.

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Claim 17: (currently amended) The modified toxin of claim 1 ~~16~~ having an fever inducing activity decreased by at least ~~about~~ 100-fold in comparison to the native toxin.

Claim 18: (currently amended) The modified toxin of claim 1 ~~16~~ having an LD50 in Dutch Belted rabbits which is at least ~~about~~ 100-fold higher than the native toxin.

Claim 19: (currently amended) A modified pyrogenic toxin ~~derived from a native disulfide loop containing pyrogenic toxin~~, wherein the modification comprises deletion of at least ~~about~~ 40% of the amino acid residues within the disulfide loop of the native pyrogenic toxin.

Claim 20: (currently amended) The modified pyrogenic toxin of claim 19 ~~20~~ comprising a cysteine residue at position 2 of the disulfide loop region, wherein the disulfide loop region is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16, and SEQ ID NO: 17.

Claim 21: (currently amended) The modified pyrogenic toxin of claim 19 ~~20~~ wherein the native pyrogenic toxin is a type C staphylococcal enterotoxin.

Claims 22-23: (canceled)

Claim 24: (currently amended) A modified pyrogenic toxin ~~derived from a native type C staphylococcal enterotoxin~~, wherein the modified pyrogenic toxin comprises a disulfide loop region which includes no more than 10 amino acid residues.

Claim 25: (currently amended) The modified pyrogenic toxin of claim 24 wherein the disulfide loop region is SEQ ID NO: 66 (Cys-Cys-Gly-Lys-Thr-Cys).

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Claim 26: (new) The modified toxin of claim 1, comprising a cysteine residue at position 2 of the disulfide loop region, wherein the disulfide loop region comprises SEQ ID NO: 11.

Claim 27: (new) The modified pyrogenic toxin of claim 19, comprising a cysteine residue at position 2 of the disulfide loop region, wherein the disulfide loop region comprises SEQ ID NO: 11.